

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205457

FROM UNA

FOL RPT ADDIS ABABA 3538 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 14, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EINV, ET

SUBJ: AID, COMPENSATION AND APPROACH TO MENGISTU

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3537

RE PARA 10 REFTEL FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT OF LETTER
FROM PRESIDENT:

"DEAR MR CHAIRMAN:

" I HAVE BEEN HEARTENED BY REPORTS FROM MY AMBASSADOR
TO YOUR COUNTRY ABOUT THE WELCOME HE HAS RECEIVED IN ADDIS
ABABA, BOTH IN GENERAL AND PARTICULARLY FROM YOU PERSON-
ALLY. I APPRECIATE YOUR HAVING RECEIVED HIM SO PROMPTLY. I
HAVE BEEN FURTHER PLEASED TO NOTE THAT ON JULY 31 YOUR PLAN-
NING COMMISSIONER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SIGNED
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AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR BY WHICH THE UNITED STATES
WILL PROVIDE A \$4 MILLION GRANT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT TO RE-
SETTLE 7,000 FARM FAMILIES IN THE VALLEY OF THE UPPER
DIDESA RIVER.

"AS I KNOW AMBASSADOR CHAPIN HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED TO
YOU, MY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN

REACHING MUTUALLY AGREED UPON OBJECTIVES, PARTICULARLY IN BRINGING A SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER LIFE TO POOR FARMERS WHO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY OF ETHIOPIANS. BUT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DO SO, MR CHAIRMAN, WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP. UNDER EXISTING UNITED STATES LAWS, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND COMPANIES RESULTING FROM THE EARLIER NATIONALIZATIONS; OTHERWISE, MY GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED BY LEGISLATION ENACTED BY CONGRESS TO VOTE AGAINST LOANS TO ETHIOPIA IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES ARE MEMBERS. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, OTHER THAN EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION, CAN ALSO BE AFFECTED ADVERSELY AS WELL AS ETHIOPIA'S PREFERRED STATUS UNDER THE UNITED STATES GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES FOR IMPORTS.

" WE ARE DESIROUS OF CONTINUING TO ASSIST ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BOTH DIRECTLY AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN AMOUNTS FAR EXCEEDING THE COMPENSATION CLAIMS, AND FOR THAT REASON, I HOPE, MR CHAIRMAN, THAT YOU WILL GIVE MY CONCERNS YOUR EARNEST ATTENTION. AMBASSADOR CHAPIN IS IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE METHOD OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN GREATER DETAIL WITH YOU AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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"AGAIN, MR CHAIRMAN, I WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF MY DESIRE TO WORK WITH YOU STEADFASTLY AND CONCIENTIOUSLY TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES.

"SINCERELY,

SIGNED: JIMMY CARTER"

CHAPIN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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